

March 2001

KORUS

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ROK HARD

Nonsan Basic Training

Discover Seoul

Cold Weather Training

KORUS

The Only Peninsula-Wide Publication for USFK Members

March 2001, Volume 30, Number 3

U.S. Forces Korea Public Affairs Officer

Col. Samuel T. Taylor III

Eighth U.S. Army Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Col. Thomas E. Nickerson

Command Information NCOIC

Master Sgt. Thom Cuddy

KORUS STAFF

Editor

Air Force Staff Sgt. Theresa A. McCullough

Assistant Editor

Army Sgt. John R. Rozean

Staff Writers

Army Spc. Keisha R. Lunsford

Army Pfc. Nicole C. Adams

Army Pfc. Edgar R. Gonzalez

Contributors

KATUSA Cpl. Kim, Tae-Wan

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A trainee from the 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Regiment, struggles through concertina wire, as part of his individual combat skills training at Nonsan Basic Training Camp.

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PAO, ATTN: KORUS, Unit # 15ZST, APO AP 96205-
0010 or call 723-6183, Fax us at 723-7724 or e-mail
information to
rozean@usfkorea.army.mil or
mccullough@usfkorea.army.mil
Deadline 45 days prior to date of publication

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KORUS is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 360-81. Editorial content is prepared, edited, and provided by the Command Information Division of the USFK/EUSA Public Affairs Office.

KORUS is printed monthly by IMC, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense, under exclusive written contract with USFK. Circulation is 16,000 copies, printed at Korea Herald and distributed by Pacific Stars and Stripes.

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e-mail: imc@uriel.net

Boyz II Men lead singer takes dream flight in F-16

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Nathan Morris, founding member and lead singer for the award-winning Rhythm and Blues group Boyz II Men, fulfilled his lifelong dream Jan. 28 – to fly in a U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon.

“To fly in an F-16 is a dream come true,” Morris said. “I’m not really sure what to expect, but I’m excited,” he said before the flight.

Morris was at Kunsan on the last leg of the Boyz II Men Asian tour.

Prior to the flight, 1st Lt. Jayant Mahajan, 80th Fighter Squadron, briefed Morris on safety items and emergency aircraft egress procedures, just in case. A flight medicine doctor also made sure Morris was fit for flight.

During the 30-minute orientation flight, Abair flew Morris over parts of the South Korean peninsula after performing an afterburner takeoff. Following the flight Morris had a smile that beamed wide.

“That was cool,” Morris said after climbing out of the cockpit. “It was better than I imagined it would be. It was intense.”

When asked if he ever considered joining the Air Force, Morris said, “I considered it about a year before I signed my first record contract.” That was about nine years ago.



Senior Airman Sarayuth Pinthong

First Lt. Jayant Mahajan, 80th Fighter Squadron, assists Nathan Morris, of Boyz II Men, with his helmet preparing for an orientation ride in a F-16 fighter at Kunsan Air Base, ROK.



Lt. Lisa Brackenbury

First port visit

A Republic of Korea sailor waits as the USS Vandegrift (FFG 48) slowly approaches the pier at the ROK naval base in Pyongtaek, Korea Feb. 6. Vandegrift's arrival marked the first-ever port visit to the Korean west coast city by a U.S. Navy ship. Sailors from both Vandegrift and the anchored USS John S. McCain (DDG 56) were in the area to participate in joint pre-sail conferences prior to a week of at-sea bilateral training in communications procedures and navigation maneuvers. The Pyongtaek naval base is the new home to the ROK SECOND Fleet.

Chinhae galley, commissary among Navy's best

Living up to its nickname as “the Navy’s best kept secret in Korea,” Commander, Fleet Activity Chinhae (CFAC) is the home to two recent award winning facilities placing them among the best the Navy has to offer.

CFAC’s galley, the Kum Kang Café, was named a winner of the Navy’s 2001 Captain Edward F. Ney Five-Star Ashore General Messes Award. The Ney Award is the highest recognition for food service excellence in the Navy. Additionally, the CFAC commissary received an award naming it the most improved commissary in the small facility category in the Western Pacific region. (Courtesy CNFK Public Affairs)

Registration with BIDS required by May 1

By Maj. Bradley Scofield

Chief of Security USFK Provost Marshal

The number of days remaining to register with the Biometric Identification System (BIDS) is quickly dwindling before the USFK imposed deadline of May 1 is here. With installation of BIDS at Pass and ID and Vehicle Registration sites complete, local Area Provost Marshal Offices and Base Security Forces have begun transition to the new system.

All of the planned BIDS registration sites have been fielded and the transition plan to switch over to a standardized, automated, base pass prior to May 1, has begun for each community.

The plan requires all personnel requiring access to USFK installations to enroll. Non-SOFA personnel will receive a new base pass, generated by BIDS. SOFA personnel and family members with Department of Defense ID cards will not receive a new pass, but they must be entered into the data-

base using their current ID card by May 1.

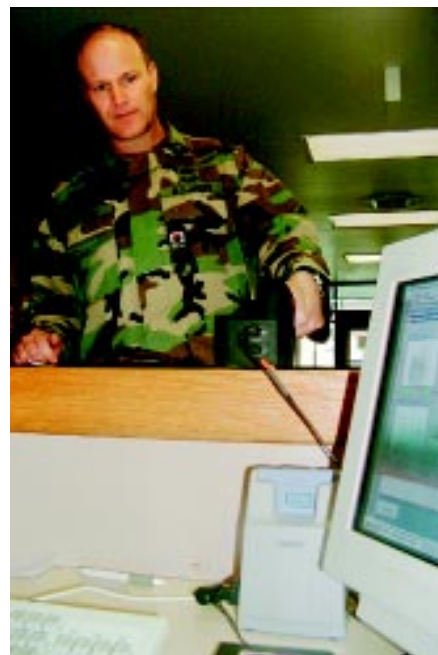
Failure to process for a pass and/or enroll into the BIDS system could prevent people from accessing USFK bases.

For Non-SOFA personnel, even if you currently have a valid access pass, if it is not a new BIDS pass (USFK Form 37ek(auto)), you must request a new one in the same manner as a renewal request.

Requesting organizations, activities and authorities must apply for a pass request for their personnel through their supporting Area Support Group approval authority. Procedures are similar to past requests. A letter of justification, USFK Form 82, and the old pass must be provided to the approval authority for consideration. Upon approval of the pass request, personnel will report to their servicing Pass and ID office to be issued their new USFK Form 37ek(auto) and have their photographs and fingerprints captured.

The processing time for registration once the pass request is approved is usually 10 to 15 minutes.

BIDS consists of four types of computer systems which are linked to a common database and shared by all BIDS fielded bases in Korea. One of those types is the Registration System located at vehicle registration and pass and ID offices, and is where the BIDS identification card is issued. Pass and ID personnel build a personal file; create the ID card; capture two comparison fingerprints and insert local data (mailing address, emergency phone number) into the database. The process takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes for non-SOFA personnel.



Pic. Nicole C. Adams

Lt. Col. Joseph Curtain, Eighth U.S. Army, Yongsan places his thumb on the Biometric Identification System scanner.

For SOFA personnel who are enrolling in the database, it takes three to five minutes.

Each Area Support Group has their own plan for switching over to the computer generated base pass and enrolling all personnel in the security database. Remember, everyone must go, either to get a new ID card or to enroll in the database with their DOD ID card. Specific information can be obtained by contacting your local military police unit, security forces squadron or Master at Arms.

The new common access card that military members will begin receiving next month will be compatible with the BIDS. (See related story Page 28)

For more information about BIDS registration in Korea, call Maj. Scofield, the BIDS project OIC at 738-4517 or scofieldb@usfk.korea.army.mil or SSG Robert Belair, the BIDS project NCOIC at 738-4701 or belairr@usfk.korea.army.mil.

Area BIDS representatives

USFK/EUSA: Neil Carrington, 738-4700
Southpost Yongsan, Building 4866

CRC : SFC Kenneth Weyand, 732-7490
Camp Red Cloud, Pass & ID Office

Area I : SMG John Guertin, 730-4415
Camp Casey, Pass & ID Office

Area II: SSG Andrew Lieberg, 724-7211
Camp Kim, Pass & ID Office

Area III: SSG Dexter McMichael, 753-6676
Camp Humphreys, Pass & ID Office

Area IV: SFC Rodney Smith, 768-8692
Camp Henry, Pass & ID Office

Osan Air Base: Tech. Sgt. Charles Mansfield
784-4489

Kunsan Air Base: Staff Sgt. Antonio Bell,
782-4900

Chinhae: James Rollison, 762-5345

Troop Talk with the CINC

Editor's Note: This is the sixth in a series of monthly articles addressing issues and concerns of military forces serving within the U.S. Forces Korea. USFK Commander General Thomas A. Schwartz routinely visits the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines stationed on the Korean peninsula and conducts Sensing Sessions to receive feedback on issues ranging from military service to quality of life. The following topics were raised during recent visits.

Issue: *What can be done to keep our teenagers out of trouble? Can we expand the number of programs in Yongsan to occupy their time?*

Response: There are quite a variety of teen activities available for youths from Yongsan and Hannam Village. I'll publish the extensive details provided to me in a separate column. Extensive marketing procedures are in place to publicize Youth Services programs and special events. Current media publicity efforts include: banners, posters, Community Connection, Seoul Word, quarterly teen newsletter, newcomer's Seoul Survivor, Command Channel 3, a monthly Area II Information meeting, and Town Hall meetings. As initiatives: we will increase the frequency of the teen newsletters (currently published quarterly), we will provide activities handouts at Youth Centers (Yongsan and Hannam), and reach out with direct mail to teens through MPS.

In addition, we are continually modernizing and expanding our MWR facilities. Recently, we spent \$95K renovating the SAS Building 4211 and \$75K to enclose the patio in back of Building 4211 to establish a separate area for the Middle School Program. Construction for the new Community Activities Center is planned for FY 2002, with an opening scheduled for FY 2003. All CAC activities, with the exception of Music Theatre, will move to the new facility. The building space containing the current

CAC should be used to house post organizations and support activities.

Issue: *Can we get Hazardous Duty Pay?*

Response: Everyone should now be aware of the many initiatives we have working to improve our quality of life here in Korea. Many of these initiatives focus on pay benefits and compensation such as a Cost of Living Allowance for Korea, Foreign Service tour extension bonuses, etc. We now receive Hardship Duty Pay, which authorizes \$150 per month to all officers and enlisted in Area I and \$50 per month in all other areas in Korea.

Issue: *Junior enlisted soldiers are willing to accept a two-year assignment to Korea if they can bring their families. Why can't they bring them?*

Response: A great question! First, we are studying this issue right now. We must determine the right number of command-sponsored families that we can support with our current infrastructure. Our capacity to provide a good quality of life should match the number of command sponsored personnel authorized in-theater.

Second, we have an obligation to provide servicemembers and their families adequate quality of life when they receive orders. In the interim, we have reduced the number of command sponsored tours so we can

support those families we can. This simply makes more sense. The good news is we are currently planning two high-quality, state-of-the-art high-rise apartments on Yongsan to bring families on post. Construction will begin next year. Eventually, we plan to build 11 high-rise apartments on Yongsan over the next several years. Third, we cannot stop non-command sponsored (NCS) family members from coming. But, we must educate incoming servicemembers on the hardships associated with being non-command sponsored. The challenges include housing, medical care, and schools. Currently, 155 non-command sponsored students cannot attend Department of Defense Dependents Schools due to a lack of space.

Issue: *Married soldiers who would like to get together during leave and pass opportunities and are not allowed in each other's room, and the cost of lodging at the Casey Lodge is too high (\$45).*

Response. The Camp Casey Garrison Commander recently dropped the Casey Lodge's \$5 additional person fee for married soldiers. We have to charge rates of approximately \$40 to sustain our hotel, our only military lodging operation in Area I. Room rates are based on the number of occupants and rank. Rooms are reserved on a first come/first served basis with no priority based on status (leave, TDY, PCS) or rank.

Issue: *Infantry units get to go to the field with their wartime ammunition, but my unit doesn't.*

Response: Commander's determine whether to take their wartime ammunition or Ammunition Basic Load to field or not based on risk analysis. Currently there is no U.S. Army or EUSA policy stating a commander or unit must take his ammunition to the field during training.

Equipped to Fight Tonight and Win

by **Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz**

My theme for this CINC Huddle is Readiness: Equipped to Fight Tonight and Win! We take great pride in the fact that our powerful ROK-U.S. Alliance has the best service members in the world matched with the best equipment in the world! Undisputed!

Just think about that. Our joint and combined forces are armed and equipped with the most advanced technology available — technology that is accurate, reliable and lethal.

More importantly, the awesome power and might this Alliance brings to the fight is absolutely incredible. It is a fact respected by our friends and potential foes alike.

Granted, it's people who win our nation's wars; not machines. But people who are well lead, equipped, and trained will always stand victorious — winners in every sense of the word!

Unquestionably, our servicemembers deserve the best equipment and the best training to stay razor sharp in our warfighting skills; therefore, I need everyone's help to stay ready "To fight tonight and win." Let me tell you how.

First, your leadership is responsible to ensure you have the authorized equipment on hand and all of it is in good working condition. This is why leaders and subordinates are charged with conducting regular inventories and inspections of tools and equipment. Simply put, leaders are responsible for repairing, replacing, and accounting for their property.

Second, servicemembers — the primary equipment users — share in this responsibility as well. I encourage you to keep your chain of command informed about the status of your equipment; therefore, communicate regularly with your leaders about worn, lost or damaged, or equipment that is not on hand.

Please, don't wait until it's time to change over your hand receipt. The problem could just get passed on to the next servicemember. Take the initiative and do the right thing. Report it!

Needless to say, everybody counts when it comes to equipment readiness. Leaders count! Servicemembers count! Hence — the entire chain of command counts making sure your unit is trained, equipped, and ready to fight tonight and win!

It's also about taking pride in your unit. A unit that is properly led, trained, and equipped is an unbeatable combination.

It's how units gain confidence in themselves and their equipment — be it weapons, vehicles or tool kits. It's what readiness is all about — Pride, Confidence, Teamwork, and Caring. Consequently, servicemembers who care about their equipment readiness make a huge difference in other key areas.

How about safety? For example, a mechanic obviously needs the right tools to make safe and effective repairs. Now, think about the risks one takes by using the wrong equipment for the job. This lack of caring could result in a serious accident because someone



Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz

**Commander: U.S. Forces Korea
Commander in Chief: United Nations
Command and ROK/U.S. Combined
Forces Command**

used poor judgment. Unacceptable!

Additionally, having the right equipment and caring for it saves money. There is clearly no room in our forces for fraud, waste, or abuse. Our taxpayers entrust us to take care of the expensive resources provided to us; therefore, don't be apathetic about equipment issues. Be bold, innovative, and take the initiative to make it right working through your chain of command.

We truly care about your readiness. If it needs fixing, let's fix it; if it needs replacing, then let's replace it; and if it's on order, follow-up on the delivery!

Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. once said, *"Practice those things in peacetime that you intend to do in war."* I truly believe this. Our military history has proven this in every instance. It remains true today: train to standard; account for and take care of your equipment; and do those things in peacetime that you will do in war!

Finally, let me close by saying how proud I am of you and what you do every day serving this great and powerful Alliance!

There is no doubt that we are trained, equipped and ready to fight tonight and win!

Katchi Kapsida! We go forward together!

Forces of nature

Story and photos by
Sgt. John R. Rozean

Korea offers many challenges for the servicemembers stationed here, but this past January, winds blew through the Korean mountains at temperatures not felt here for more than 20 years. While the ice and snow may have changed the peninsula's road condition levels to more cautious ones and canceled schools, most servicemembers here continued with their missions – some effected more than others.

"Our biggest enemy out here is the weather," said 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Command Sgt. Maj. Marvell R. Dean, as he took a short warming break from the minus 20 degree Fahrenheit wind chill. His battalion, which is based out of Camp Greaves, Munsan, spent more than a week training at the Korean Training Area, located about 12 kilometers northeast of Camp Casey, Tonduchon. They conducted training during the middle of the January cold spell.

The daytime temperatures during their training were just

above zero – bearable to most polar bears. But at dusk and thereafter, the Home of the Morning Calm became the home of the intolerable wind chill, which approached minus 30.

"When the sun dips over that ridge line, the wind generally picks up and the temperature drops pretty low," Capt. Kevin Lunsford, Company C commander, said as he pointed to the mountain top which held the fate of the day's trifle warmth.

"When it gets colder, we start moving slower," said Sgt. Luther Figgs, food preparation specialist with the 1/506th. "It will go right through you."

Something to learn

With such cold temperatures, some people may wonder why training is not postponed until summer.

"Training in cold weather is beneficial in a lot of ways," said Capt. Logan Stanton, the battalion's S-3. "The biggest thing that soldiers will get out of this is confidence – confidence in each other, confidence in

the supply system, and confidence in their equipment."

With the Army's extreme cold weather clothing on, "(The cold) is not as bad as you think," said Pfc. Joel D. Miller.

Others hardly notice the cold. "I don't even think about it," said team leader Sgt. Robert Barber. "I just do my job." A soldier's job tends to be a little more difficult in such extremely cold temperatures.

"It usually takes tasks twice as long to complete out here," said Sgt. Eric Rangel, the battalion's intelligence analyst.

And the cold weather presents many unique learning experiences. "Every training exercise gives you an opportunity to learn new things," said Rangel.

For example, many of the infantrymen are using their extreme cold weather mittens for the first time, said Lunsford.

But, "as the soldiers go through each phase of the training, the elements are no longer a hindrance, which is the ultimate goal," said the "Curahee" sergeant major, Dean.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry rush in to secure a building at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain site at the Korean Training Center. The air inside the building was 10 degrees colder than it was outside where the sun providing a meager amount of warmth.



Leadership

"I like to train, and I like to train soldiers," said Barber. He said that an important part of training was building the soldiers' confidence in unit leadership.

"The cold is a shared hardship between all the levels of leadership within the battalion," Stanton said. Camaraderie and teamwork are the heart of an infantry unit, he said.

"I check the commander's feet for frostbite and he checks mine," said Company A 1st Sgt. Darryl Gill. And a good leader is willing to take on the same risks and challenges that his soldiers must take.

One 1/506th soldier felt that this type of dedication existed in his unit. "They do everything we do," said Pfc. Joe Pettis. "They are out here with us. They're out here freezing just like us."

"Leadership is a very important part of attacking and destroying the enemy, and the cold is just like the enemy," he said. "The weather may not stop an enemy from attacking, so we need to learn how to fight in the cold. Dealing with the cold is just like any other part of training.

"If you go out and do it and learn how to deal with it, you'll be able to go out and perform your mission and destroy the enemy," concluded Gill.



(Above) Pvt. Park, Min Sun, 102nd Military Intelligence Bn., 2nd Infantry Division, has his canteen ready and available as he pulls guard duty out at the Kansas Training Area located on Warrior Base — a large training complex north of Munsan and less than three kilometers south of the Demilitarized Zone. Staying hydrated during cold temperatures is extremely important for staying battle ready.

(Right) Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry practice firing with their extreme cold weather mittens as well as in the ambidextrous position.



Even planners doubtful of success

By Spc. Frank Pellegrini
361st Press Camp Headquarters

“The Navy and Marines have never shone more brightly than this morning,” declared Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur, Commander in Chief, United Nations Command, on Sept. 16, 1950, the day after the Inchon landing.

Inchon was MacArthur’s brainchild and great triumph, considered a strategic masterstroke that made the Pusan breakout possible, broke the back of the North Korean army and turned the tide of the war. And considering the inherent difficulties — the wide tidal swings, the swift currents and steep waves, the uncertainty of intelligence about the layout of the west coast port and the strength of enemy forces defending it — the victory came relatively cheaply, with only 20 killed among 200 casualties. But before it happened, few military planners aside from MacArthur himself thought the amphibious landing, dubbed “Operation Chromite,” would work.

The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Joint Chiefs of Staff were all doubters. Working the phones from his Tokyo headquarters, MacArthur needed all his considerable powers of persuasion — and all his credibility as the man who had pulled off similar operations in New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II such as the famed landing at Leyte in October 1944 — to make believers out of all the elements necessary for a successful landing.

Another skeptic at the time was the G3, or operations, officer for the 1st Marine Division, Col. Alpha L. Bowser, Jr. — the man responsible for planning MacArthur’s amphibious assault. Bowser, originally stationed at Camp Pendleton in California, had been tapped for the job just six weeks before the landing took place. When he arrived in Tokyo in August 1950, attached to MacArthur’s Army staff, and began talking to Army and Navy staffers about the proposed operation, he heard little to make him optimistic.

A half century later, after visiting the Inchon Landing Operation Memorial to commemorate the 50th anniversary of that famous landing, Bowser recalled that at first, in fact, he heard very little at all.

“I was amazed at the lack of information,” Bowser recalled. “The biggest difficulty was finding anyone who knew in detail about the tides, the currents, and the seawall at Inchon and what lay beyond it. I remember getting there and thinking, there must be somebody around here who

knows what we’re getting into.”

“Finally, we found an Army Chief Warrant Officer, who was the Assistant Port Director for Inchon, who was immensely helpful,” Bowser said. “So we pumped him dry.”

Not that the information Bowser was able to gather was particularly encouraging. Because of the massive tidal ranges in Inchon’s harbor, two landings would be necessary. One would happen at the offshore island of Wolmi-do, which would be cleared with bombardment from the sea and air and then taken with the morning high tide at

6:30 a.m., followed by the main landing at Inchon itself on the afternoon high tide eleven hours later. For Bowser, this meant the Inchon landing would immediately have the odds stacked against it.

“All of it was bad news,” Bowser remembered. First, there was the half day stranded on Wolmi-do; then the amphibious landing at Inchon against largely unknown defenses — at night.

“One and a half hours after you hit the beach, you’re in total darkness,” Bowser said. “Then you’re sitting ducks until morning.”

But for Bowser, the challenges — including the additional logistical night-

mare of having to reinforce an undermanned 1st Marine Division so that it would have the numbers capable of taking Inchon and fighting its way 20 miles east to occupied Seoul to meet up with the northbound Eighth Army — were what made the job fun.

“You hate to say that anything about war is enjoyable, but I did enjoy the professional aspects” of planning an operation of Inchon’s size and importance, he said. “This was the height of my career. I had put 20 years of work and training into this point.”

Fifty years after Inchon and 33 years after retiring as a lieutenant general in 1967, Bowser is a spry 90 years old. He’s become one of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War commemoration’s elder statesman. When he appears at a ceremony, veterans surround him in bunches, eager to shake his hand or pose for a picture with him.

“I really enjoy spending time with these veterans,” he said. “You look around, and they’re in their early 70’s, and still as upbeat and chatty as ever,” said the upbeat and chatty 90-year-old. Bowser said the organizers of the anniversary commemoration have done the veterans a great service.

“The Korean War was forgotten. Now, it’s coming into its own again, because of this (commemoration).”



Col. Alpha L. Bowser

ROK hard

KATUSA's career begin at ROK Army basic training

By Cpl. Kim, Tae Wan
Eighth U.S. Army Public Affairs

Cold and inclement weather greeted the young trainees of the Republic of Korea Army Basic Training Camp as they awoke to start another day of training. With temperatures lingering barely above the freezing point and rain turning the ground into mud, hardcore training seemed to be the menu for the day.

"Training doesn't stop unless a natural disaster occurs or conditions are unbearable. War doesn't always start on a sunny day," said 1st Lt. Cho, Jae Do, first platoon leader, 11th Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Regiment.

Nonsan Basic Training Camp is an installation dedicated to training young men to become soldiers in the

ROK Army. Established Nov. 1, 1951 during the Korean War, it has graduated nearly six million soldiers. Through rigorous physical and mental training, the trainees are set to perform their duties as soldiers in the ROK Army.

The Nonsan basic training is a six week course, which includes various military training such as drill and ceremony, Taekwondo, bayonet fencing, rifle marksmanship, individual combat skills, Nuclear, Biological, Chemical training and a 32-kilometer night road march.

A typical day begins with a battalion formation at 6 a.m., which includes the singing of the national anthem, reading of the code of conduct, elementary gymnastics and a 1.5-kilometer run. The day ends with a roll call at 9:30 p.m. and all lights

out by 10 p.m.

The basic training camp is responsible for graduating approximately 44 percent of the trainees who become soldiers in the ROK army. The rest are trained at camps located at the various army divisions throughout Korea. The Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army soldiers are graduates of Nonsan Basic Training, going through the same military training as the other ROK soldiers.

"The KATUSAs I've trained are very quick to understand so they are easier to train. They acquire the required basic military skills with swift accuracy. However, they are not strong-willed when it comes to voicing their opinion within a group. Many of them lack confidence. Through six weeks of training, most are able to gain that confidence," said

Staff Sgt. Woo, Dae Young 3rd platoon leader for the 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Regiment, (on top of platform) instructs trainees on bayonet fencing under rainy conditions.



1st Lt. Kim, Jung Woong, 1st platoon leader for the 12th Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Regiment.

The trainees have a lot of restrictions placed on them, in order to teach them discipline and organization propitiation skills, which all of the trainees need.

"It's been difficult trying to adjust to the military lifestyle. I've never really experienced living in a group and doing everything in a systematic way," said Jang, Sung Woo, a trainee with the 9th Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Regiment, who will serve as a KATUSA after graduating.

There are 19 training battalions at the camp, training over 10,000 trainees. Due to the three-week KATUSA enlistment cycle, there are always two battalions that have KATUSA trainees. Each battalion has about 150 KATUSA trainees. They are spread around the four companies within the battalion.

"We make sure that the KATUSAs are not given any special treatment. The most important thing in the army is unity, and segregation would go against this ideal. We train all soldiers to be elite troops in the ROK Army," said Capt. Kim, Dae Shik, public affairs officer for the Nonsan Training Camp.

The basic training camp is well known for its challenging training courses. Many have great difficulties at first, but through mental perseverance, they successfully graduate from basic training.

The Army trainees look forward to receiving military occupational specialties training. The KATUSA trainees, upon graduation, go to the KATUSA Training Academy at Uijongbu, for three additional weeks of training. Here they learn the basics of being part of the Eighth U.S. Army. Their MOS is decided just before they graduate from KTA, and they are then assigned to their respective units.

In their squad room, trainees study for a test on moral training, which is taken during the fourth week of training.

MARCH 2001



Trainees of the 11th Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Regiment, jump off and obstacle during ranger training.

"I look forward to the unit that I will be assigned to. I expect to learn a lot of English and do a lot of physical training. I want to do my part as the link between the ROK and U.S. Forces," said Kang, Dong Won, a KATUSA trainee with the 9th Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Regiment.

For most soldiers, their time at basic training is memorable, good or bad. It is hard to forget the hardship, the discipline, and the camaraderie they experience.

"I still remember the comradeship

from basic," said Pfc. Kim, Tae Rae, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2X G3 Liaison Office, 2nd Infantry Division. "During the road march, one of my contemporaries started to stagger. The trainees around him saw this and helped him regain his balance. They also didn't forget to give him words of encouragement. The camaraderie I experienced carried on to my present unit. The soldiers, especially the KATUSAs, rely on each other, helping each other when in need."



Customs going out of their way to...

Keep USFK compliant

Story and photos by

Pfc. Nicole C. Adams

The last thing anyone wants after flying to Korea is to sit through hours of instruction and customs inspections. After a 12-hour flight, getting to your unit and getting some sleep is your main priority.

The customs folks at Kimpo, Osan and Pusan airports know this and do their best to help you get in and out of the airport as smoothly as possible, but they are also dedicated to making their motto, "First impressions start with us!" true.

"Most people are tired and just want to get to their unit when they arrive at Osan. We understand that and try to expedite the process as much as we can," said Army Staff Sgt. Luther D. Israel, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 8th Military Police Brigade, U.S. Forces Korea black market ration control noncommissioned officer in charge.

"We do the best we can to make them feel welcome. We sympathize with them about the length of the flight because we have all been on it, so we know they are probably not in a good mood," said Army Sgt. Loren W. Paradis, Headquarters 8th MP Bde., NCOIC USFK customs.

Being a customs official is not a primary job position. Officials are military police who are self-motivated and want to try something new.

Comprised of soldiers, airmen, Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army and civilians, the customs officials have a much larger job than hurrying you out to the buses.

"Our job is very serious and we take it serious. We are the go-between for Korea immigrations and customs," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Daryl V. Bedford, 51st Security Forces



Senior Airman, 51st Security Forces Squadron military customs inspector, boards an inbound plane at Osan Air Base to check the flight attendants' customs forms.



Airman 1st Class Benjamin D. Maragliano, 51st SFS military customs inspector, directs a newcomer to Korea to the customs inspection point after verifying that the information on his form was correct.

Squadron NCOIC military customs.

In accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement, the customs officials are responsible for confiscating illegal contraband, such as pornography, and unauthorized weapons such as over-sized knives.

The most common items brought in country are pornographic materials, but the customs folks have seen it all.

"The strangest thing I have seen brought in was an individual's rock collection. There were 50 pounds of rocks in a foot locker, all in display cases," Paradis said.

Israel has seen everything from explosives to a full-grown moose head.

"I get no satisfaction from taking away a person's private property, but we do have an obligation to support the SOFA and the Korean government, as well as maintain good order and discipline in the military community," Paradis said.

The penalties for violating these laws can cost the military member thousands of dollars.

"We emphasize the point that we are not morality police, that we are only here to keep SOFA status personnel from getting in trouble. Most of the incoming personnel we deal with don't see it that way, so we constantly have to ensure that we do our best to communicate clearly and professionally with them," Paradis said.

However, Israel will tell you this is not easy. "People will try to intimidate the (inspectors) with their rank. A good customs inspector will use his or her tact, drive on and do their job."

So if, after reading all of this, you still are willing to

brave making it through customs checks with forbidden materials, the inspectors will tell you that it just isn't worth it.

"It's not very smart to try and smuggle things in and out of country. You never know when you might get caught, and the fines and punishments are extensive," said Senior Airman Christopher L. Branscomb, 51st SFS military customs inspector.

"Is it worth it? We check about 50 to 60 percent of inbound luggage. For the gamblers out there, figure the odds, then figure if you want to bet your career," Paradis said.

Paradis said good communications skills are essential to being effective. "Customs inspectors have to be able to ask the right questions in the right way in order to garner cooperation and to coax information from people who may or may not be



A newcomer to Korea discards an item that is considered contraband before going through the customs check point.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacey G. Moore, 51st SFS assistant NCOIC military customs, answers a question about a customs form.

breaking the law.”

The challenge doesn't stop there. On an average Tuesday or Thursday, the Osan officials process over 300 people. They conduct spot checks on baggage coming in country and going out on odd days and also do checks on household baggage.

Yet, the servicemembers will tell you that they love their job.

“The best part of my job is dealing with people, seeing new faces come in and helping them to the best of my ability,” Paradis said. He also enjoys and appreciates working with all the different services, something he says not many enlisted military police get to do.

“I would definitely sink without (my troops') support. My job would be impossible to complete. My soldiers are outstanding troops who need very little supervision or guidance when it comes to their duty performance,” Paradis said.

KATUSA Pfc. Min, Yong-Kyu, USFK customs inspector, appreciates knowing that he is keeping people safe. “I can prevent accidents by confiscating knives and dangerous items.”

Genuine care and concern are two of the qualities it takes to be a customs inspector, but there are many more.

Paradis said an inspector must also be able to exhibit an uncommon level of professionalism. “We are often confronted with some very private or personal items and must be able to avoid making sarcastic or uncalled for comments or making the person uncomfortable.”

Each individual's characteristics are certainly making an impression and

producing results, according to Staff Sgt. Stacey G. Moore, 51st SFS assistant NCOIC military customs.

“If I have something I'm not supposed to have, I don't want it. It impressed me that they made sure we did the right thing,” said newcomer to Korea, Hermania L. Dill.

But the inspectors will tell you that that is just what has to happen to ensure security on the peninsula. Being efficient and thorough is their job and their pride but it can't be done alone.

Their discipline works to your benefit when, by the end of the morning, their team effort has been a success and you are on the way to your unit.

“We have a pretty good group of people. We're a small group but we get the job done and get it done well,” Moore said. “People are very grateful when they see you've gone out of your way to help them.”



Cpl. Kwan-Wook Kim, USFK customs inspector, measures a knife to ensure it's in accordance with SOFA regulations.

In one swipe

DOD's smarter ID card offers more than just basic information

Story by Spc. Keisha Lunsford

With one swipe of the new Common Access Card (CAC), DOD members will soon not only have access to their installations or DOD buildings and computers, but all of their personal military information will be available in one place... their ID card.

DOD began implementing a new effective way of doing business using the latest smart card technology replacing current ID cards with the CAC. By October 2002 more than 4 million servicemembers will carry the new card.

South Korea has been designated as one of the three initial issue sites for the CAC, replacing the standard ID card for military and DoD employees. The issue sites in Korea are the 516th Personnel Services Battalion at Yongsan and 51st Military Personnel Squadron, Osan Air Base. The other initial issue sites include Virginia and Germany.

"The CAC will pave the way for the (Defense) Department to enter the Internet Age," said Bernard D. Rostker, former Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, during a news briefing Oct. 10. As well as being an individual's ID card, it will become the principal card to gain access to military installations and DoD facilities, log on to DoD computer systems, encrypt or encode e-mail and access controlled spaces.

The CAC will be issued to active duty members, selected reserve members, DoD civilians, eligible foreign national employees and eligible contractors.

The smart card will be issued gradually through attrition, not all at once.

Service members will continue to use their current card until it expires through October 2002. The new ID

cards will be issued as the old ID cards expire or when it needs to be replaced because of promotion or reenlistment.

For the military installations without CAC issuance stations now, servicemembers who need to update their rank or replace their current ID card will be issued another current ID card, until that particular installation has the CAC station set up. After October 2002, every eligible person will have the CAC.

CACs will be issued for a period of three years, or the individual's term of service, employment, or association with the DoD, whichever is earlier, according to the DoD CAC Policy Memorandum.

Even though the new multi-purpose card will replace the current "green cards," family members of service members will not be issued the CAC. Other ineligible people include the Individual Ready Reservists, the Inactive National Guard, Standby Reservists, the retired reservists and other retired members of the military services.

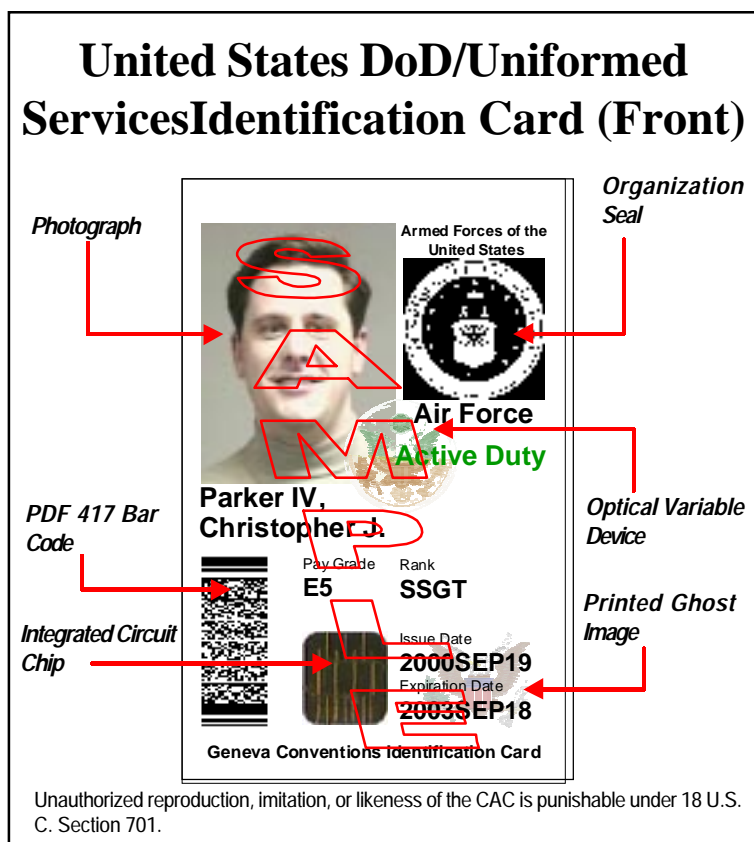
Recently, the card was in the Beta testing phase to identify and eliminate any potential problems. The Beta

tests are the first testing for the issuance process of CAC, followed by the applications that use CAC, such as the network log-on and e-mail, according to the officials of the Common Access Card Office at the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The initial testing began in October 2000.

The memory of the card's Integrated Card Circuit (ICC) for future applications has improved the smart card since the initial testing started.

Getting these "bugs"

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CAC Card

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out has delayed the issuance of the cards to soldiers stationed in Korea, as did a delay in the delivery of the CAC software. The software is expected to arrive at Korea's sites soon.

The CAC card differs significantly from the current one. The CAC will contain more in-depth information.

For the military member, the current card has one full headshot picture, and bears the cardholder's name, rank and pay grade, social security number, expiration or separation date and signature on the front of the card.

On the back, it has the person's birthdate, weight, height, hair and eye color, blood type, the card's issue date, category of the Geneva Convention and one barcode.

On the front of the new card, there will be a full headshot picture and a ghost image on the back of it.

Each CAC card contains one or more Integrated Circuit Chips (ICC), a magnetic strip and two barcodes. The CAC bears no signature.

The chip will hold most of the basic personal and demographic information, such as the cardholder's name, gender, benefits and privileges information, blood type and organ donor (if military). It also carries digital certificates that can be used over the internet, signing e-mail and encrypting e-mail which makes sure the person is who he says he or she is.

"This capability provides additional assurance and information security over the Department's networks," and physical security information.

The barcodes will store the name, social security number, birthdate, pay category, pay grade, benefits information and organizational affiliation of the card holder. Conveniently, the computer chip and magnetic strip are updateable so DoD isn't limited to the amount of information on the card.

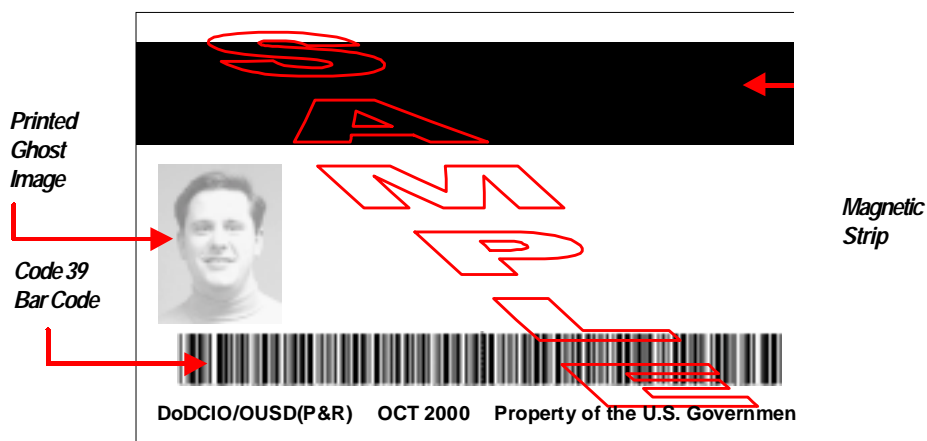
Like the current identification card, CAC gets the information from the Defense Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS).

Once the local commands set up the CAC issuance station, eligible persons need to bring their current ID card, along with their work e-mail address, and a six- to eight- digit personal identification number (pin).

New employees and eligible contractors need to bring two picture IDs and a signed DD Form 1172-2. The pin shouldn't be written on anything stored with the CAC.

As an added security feature, the new card can't be

United States DoD/Uniformed Services Identification Card (Back)



Unauthorized reproduction, imitation, or likeness of the CAC is punishable under 18 U.S. C. Section 701.

easily duplicated because of the advanced computer chip. According to the DoD release, obtaining information from the card requires the cardholder to use his pin number.

"I applaud the fact this card gives our people a key technological tool to improve performance while protecting individual privacy," said Rostker. "More importantly," he said, "we (DoD) are excited about how it will better serve and support our service men and women."

For example, a soldier has three chances to enter the pin correctly. After the third time, the system will lock the soldier out and he or she will not be able to use the card until the soldier goes to a CAC issuance station to get their card unlocked.

One of the important aspects for CAC is that it eliminates manual paper-based systems, so DoD can conduct their missions in a newer and smarter way.

According to the Smart Card Basics release, the troops at Schofield Barracks spent almost five days performing readiness processing for their deployment. The process involved the establishment of supporting customer service offices throughout the base, a guarded station to assemble paper-based Service Records, and servicemembers had to process through each station in series.

With the smart card technology, "deployment readiness" is cut back to one day which enhances the mission's effectiveness by readying personnel more rapidly for deployments.

Along the DoD wave of technology improvements, some future additions to the card might involve keeping track of weapon registry, using it as a debit card and, of course, using it as a passport. Also, the medical and dental information is up to the local commands, but a Department-wide decision hasn't been made yet.

For additional details, the official Web site for the DoD Common Access Card Office can be viewed at www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard/ or www.defenselink.mil.

Story and photos by Spc. Keisha R. Lunsford

I admit that South Korea is my first overseas assignment and to read about it, just can't compare to actually living, working and being here.

The military offers young people many chances to see the world, whether they want to or not.

Within my first week here, I could see that South Korea has so much to offer anyone: military history, Korea's expanding culture, the arts and lots of shopping.

South Korea is truly the world's best kept secret because the shopping is so unbelievably reasonable and addictive.

Another kept secret in Seoul, is the two and a half-hour ride on the Seoul City Bus Tour.

The tour begins at 8:30 a.m. in front of the Dongwha Duty Free Shop in Gwanghwamun, and makes 28 stops in the Seoul area, which illustrates Korea's past, present and future. It is a 35-seat passenger bus.

Conveniently, each stop has a three meter-high neon sign displaying "Seoul City Tour Bus" so tourists can remember where they are.

Before the passengers get on, the bus driver usually rings the bell to let them know that the

tour is about to get started.

Once the bus drives off to the first sight, the tourists are greeted with bilingual tour guides. On the weekends the guides wear a modern version of Korea's traditional costume, hanbok. This costume adds a Korean touch to the tour.

The tour guides speak in English, Korean, Japanese and Chinese.

Some of the stops include Deoksugung Palace, Seoul Station, Itaewon, Dongdaemun Market, Changgyeonggung Palace, Namdaemun Market, Lotte Hotel, Insa-dong, the Blue House, Seoul Tower on Mt. Namsan, Hyatt Hotel, National Theater, Shilla Hotel, Tower Hotel, Crown Hotel, Jogyesa Temple and Daehangno.

The tour guide, Miji Chung, told us a few interesting facts about famous Americans who have visited Seoul.

When looking around Seoul, it is the other city that never sleeps because there is so much to see and wonder around in.

Since Yongsan Army base is one of the stops, the bus stop is outside of Gate 5 and people can get on there for the next stop or two for 1,200 won.

On the ride up the steep road to the Seoul Tower, Chung said it is the third largest tower in the world. On top of the tower is a skyline restaurant where many people go to enjoy American and Korean food. She also men-

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Kim, Eun Kyo, a bus driver for the Seoul City Bus Tour, rings the gong, indicating to passengers the tour is about to begin in Gwanghwamun.

Secret Tour

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tioned that a lot of Koreans and military members run up to it.

The Seoul City Tour Bus runs between 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. every 25 to 30 minutes. Chung also said some Koreans get on the bus to go to work, because it's convenient and inexpensive.

For romance, the bus is a great way to escape on the night tour of Seoul, which lasts almost two hours. The night tour begins at 6 p.m. The day and night tours cost about \$5 each and it allows you to walk around for a bit before the next bus comes.

But the one-day ticket from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. lasts all day, and it costs about \$7 per adult. Tourists use this ticket mainly for shopping.

Also, costs for a two-hour tour, adults is 1,200 won (\$1.20), children cost 800 won (\$.80); and junior and senior high school students cost 1,000 won (\$1).

Whether you're new to Korea or just really love shopping on post, you should put your best boot down and make that effort to see Seoul before you go.

Tickets can be purchased at local area hotels, the Dongwha Duty Free Shop in Gwanghwamun or on the bus. To check out more information, visit the Web site at www.seoulcitytourbus.com.



(Above) Miji Chung, left, a Seoul City Bus Tour Guide poses next to a fellow tour guide near the Blue House. Chung speaks English and Korean.

(Right) A statue of a peacock and a family graces the circular intersection in front of the National Folk Museum and the Blue House.



The Seoul Tower, which stands 480 meters high, is the world's third largest tower.

